



State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers



**Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal**

Lately it seems each week is a lesson in staying focused and on task. The month started off with my State Fire Marshal confirmation hearing and all I want to say about that is THANK YOU to the many partners, friends, and colleagues that took the time to attend and speak. It is a humbling experience to receive such recognition and to wear the responsibility of being a voice at this level for fire prevention and fire service training. The goals I listed for the Senate Rules Committee were:

- Be a leadership voice for fire prevention for the public, fire service, and policy makers.
- Develop solutions for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire problem in California.
- Prepare the OSFM for the next generation.
- Improve State Fire Training.

On another note, we are almost complete with the Tahoe Fire Commission responsibilities and will be issuing a final report on the WUI issues, fire prevention and education, forest fuels management, and environmental protection in early April. This has been a demanding public process that brings the WUI fire problem to the forefront in both the northern and southern parts of the state.

Our SFM 2-Year Work Plan is being updated to reflect the goals for 2008-09 and should be available on the website soon, as will the 2007 Annual Report that addresses what we have accomplished the previous year. You can see that we are refining this from year-to-year to make the performance measures and schedules more specific. The overall goal is to communicate both our focus areas and the expectations for which our customers can hold us accountable. Any comments or feedback you would care to provide are welcome.

Due to the Governor's state budget concerns, and to be fiscally prudent, we are canceling all travel both in and out of state that relies on general fund. This means that some of our SFM staff may cancel appearances or not be available to attend meetings personally. We will do our best to stay connected until the budget problems are resolved and will utilize teleconferencing whenever possible. I know many of you are suffering the same fate at the local level - this will be a few years of focusing in those top priorities and advocating for the investment that solid fire prevention and mitigation provides in the long run. Be clear and be strong.

Fire and Life Safety

Hans Henneberque Honored with Harry Quinlan Award



A big SFM Congratulations! to Deputy Hans Henneberque!

The Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers' Section of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs' Association honored Deputy Hans Henneberque with the Harry Quinlan Memorial Award. This award is presented to the individual who, through his/her dedication,

spirit, cooperation and efforts, best represents the mission of the Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers. Hans is a Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal serving out of our Northern Regional Office. We are proud of you Hans!

Welcome Aboard!

The Staff of the SFM Monrovia office welcomed Rick Perry in February as their Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Fire and Life Safety Division South. He has been involved with the Fire Service for approximately 24 years and has been in State Service for 21 years. Rick worked for the OSFM from 1993 to 1998. He will graduate from the University of Phoenix in June with a degree in criminal justice. Rick enjoys bike riding and traveling with his wife and grandchildren in his R.V.



Our Monrovia office is welcoming a new Office Technician, Carolina "Carol" McDonough. Carol transferred over from the Department of Social Services in Los Angeles as a Program Technician. She is married and has a son who just turned 13. Welcome Carol!

Engineering, Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

The new California Building and Fire Codes went into effect January 1, 2008. We know that all of our local government friends are going through the challenge of implementing a new code. Because California has now moved to the ICC code for the first time, there is an additional learning curve, just getting to know the new code. We are here to assist if you have statewide issues.

The Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering section is helping building officials better understand the requirements for new structures being built on State Responsibility Areas under the new WUI codes, CBC Chapter 7A, "Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure," as of January 1, 2008. (Local governments have until July to go through the public hearing process to accept the Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps presented to them by the CALFIRE Director and adopt the 7A requirements.) The new building standard for the Fire

Hazard Severity Zones will be enforced by the Building Official as projects go through the plan checking process. To best assist them in determining if a product meets the code requirements, the State Fire Marshal's Building Materials Listing (BML) program is accepting applications for material reviews. We are trying to support local agencies by publishing all the materials in one location: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/fireengineering/bml/wuipproducts.pdf>. The handbook can be accessed through the SFM BML webpage (<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/bml.html>) and the Wildland Hazards and Building Codes page (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/wildland.php#>). The SFM listing service provides building authorities, architectural and engineering communities, contractors, and the fire service with a reliable and readily available source of information. Since the materials under Wildland Urban Interface Building Codes (except wood shakes and shingles) are not required by law to be listed by the SFM, the listings for these products are strictly voluntary. Materials not listed by the SFM may still qualify for use provided they met all the requirements under Chapter 7A. If not listed on the SFM site, all documentation and testing certificates showing compliance must be submitted to the building official having jurisdiction for final approval. Information regarding the listing application, regulations and publications etc. can be downloaded at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/bml.html>

Also, to assist with the new WUI building requirements, a group of technical specialists have been gathered to answer questions about the code. This group is different than the Code Interpretation Committee. Those needing assistance with understanding the codes can contact their local CALFIRE Unit (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/downloads/ExecutiveRoster.pdf>) and ask to speak to their pre-fire engineer. For more information regarding the process contact Assistant Chief Ethan Foote: ethan.foote@fire.ca.gov

The new Powerline Guide is going through the final approval and should be available on the web soon.

Pipeline Safety

Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Seminar

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has joined forces with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) to conduct a 2- day seminar at the Del Mar Hilton in San Diego County on April 2 & 3, 2008.

This two day seminar will include the federal rulemaking process, 49 CFR Part 195, and layout of the significant subparts, sections, paragraphs, dates and definitions applicable to Part 195. Additional topics of discussion will include

Operator Qualification, Integrity Management, and API RP 1162, Public Awareness Programs for the Pipeline Operator.

This seminar will be of interest to pipeline industry personnel as well as local and state agency personnel who wish to gain a better understanding of the regulations that pertain to the safe operation of the 5500 miles of hazardous liquid pipelines that crisscross the state of California.

Registration and lodging information can be found on our website: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pipelinehome.html> or by contacting Kathy Battles at (916) 445-8477.

Kinder Morgan Presentation

On Thursday, February 21, 2008, the Supervising Pipeline Safety Engineer gave a presentation on the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm/Pipeline Facility in Brisbane, CA (San Mateo County). This was presented to the Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group (CAG) as part of a joint effort with the North County Fire Authority. The presentation focused on the four jurisdictional tanks referred to as "breakout" tanks (16 other storage tanks are on site) and the three jurisdictional pipelines (two inbound from Oakland/Richmond and one outbound line dedicated to the SFO Airport. Doug Allen and Tommy Flores, Pipeline Safety Engineers, supported the presentation as well. In all, about 20 persons from the CAG Committee, local fire department, and community members attended.

Welcome Our New Pipeline Employee

Tommy Flores has joined the Sacramento office of the Pipeline Safety Division. Tommy comes from the Department of Fish & Game, where he performed the duties of an Oil Spill Prevention Specialist for 8 years. He also has extensive experience working at the Navy's marine terminals and tank farms in the San Diego and SF Bay areas.



CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal

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